

Lesson Title & Grade Level:

“Living on a rock is hard....the autobiography of _____”
4th & 5th grades through middle school

Author & School Name:

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Program Description:

Students will write an autobiography on behalf of one of plants, animals, or trees that live on the granite outcrop, Arabia Mountain, in the Piedmont Region of Georgia. A class trip to Arabia Mountain should take place before writing the autobiographies. The autobiographies will be created using smore.com, an online flyer—the first five are free for each login, or using a class blog—blogspot.com is an easy to use blogging tool and can be set to private.

Curriculum Standards:

(A combination of ELA & Science standards)

ELAGSE4W2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly

ELAGSE4W6: With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of one page in a single sitting.

S5CS1. Students will be aware of the importance of curiosity, honesty, openness, and skepticism in science and will exhibit these traits in their own efforts to understand how the world works.

S5CS4. Students will use ideas of system, model, change, and scale in exploring scientific and technological matters.

ELAGSE6W3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Materials Needed:

Computers, laptops, tablets in order to use the blog or smore.com. Reference books and online reference sources. A class trip to Arabia Mountain as a precursor to this activity.

Teaching Outline:

Introduction: Remind students of their field trip to Arabia Mountain and of their studies of features of the Piedmont and granite outcrops (monadnocks). Review the living/survival conditions on Arabia Mountain. Have students name some of the plants, trees, and animals that live on the mountain, i.e. confederate daisy, pool sprite, diamorpha, etc. Remind students of elements of an autobiography – when and where you were born, how you spent your life, hardships and triumphs, and old age/decline/expected life span.

Activity description/directions: Students will use their knowledge of the natural communities of Arabia Mountain, specifically a chosen plant, tree, or animal, and write an autobiography of it, using either smore.com flyer or a class blog on blogspot.com. Model how to use the selected Web 2.0 tool, and have an example prepared. Students may work alone or in groups of 2 to create their Arabia Mountain autobiography.

Wrap-up: Students will share their creation within a group of six students. If a blog is used, students will all have access to each other's work.

Resources:

Edwards, L., Ambrose, J., & Kirkman, L. K. (2013). *The natural communities of Georgia*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.

Estes, D., & Small, R. L. (2008). Gratiola amphiantha, pool sprite, snorklewort. Retrieved May 16, 2016, from <http://scottranger.com/gratiola-amphiantha-pool-sprite-snorklewort.html>

Wheatley, T., & Davis, J. (2016, February 28). The Lost World of Arabia Mountain. Retrieved May 16, 2016, from <http://arabiaalliance.org/news/the-lost-world-of-arabia-mountain/>
Educational handouts from Arabia Mountain